

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 103609
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, ET, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR MALIN CASE. QUESTION
HAS NOT BEEN RAISED TO DATE:

QUESTION: HAS THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT REQUESTED THE
RECALL OF AN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN ADDIS ABABA? WAS HE
DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA? WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES
BEHIND HIS RECALL?

ANSWER: THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS REQUESTED THAT THE
U.S. RECALL HERBERT MALIN, THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR AT
OUR EMBASSY IN ADDIS. THE REQUEST WAS CONVEYED BY THE
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ADDIS ABABA TO OUR EMBASSY.

THE ETHIOPIAN REQUEST WAS PROVOKED BY A TRIP MALIN MADE
IN LATE MARCH TO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL AT DESSIE 250
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MILES TO THE NORTH OF ADDIS. OUR EMBASSY HAD NOTIFIED
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALIN'S PLANS ONE
MONTH BEFORE THE TRIP, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO RECOVER
U/S/ GOVERNMENT PROPERTY ON LOAN TO DESSIE SCHOOL AUTHORI-
TIES AND TO MEET LOCAL AUTHORITIES. SINCE NO OBJECTION
TO THE TRIP WAS EXPRESSED BY THE SCHEDULED DEPARTURE DATE,

MR. MALIN PROCEEDED, THIS HAVING BEEN THE PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN THE PAST. THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES NOW INSIST THAT SUCH TRIPS BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS MAY BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY AFTER RECEIPT OF FORMAL AUTHORIZATION, AND THAT SINCE MR. MALIN HAD NOT RECEIVED SUCH AUTHORIZATION, HE WAS IN VIOLATION OF THE ETHIOPIAN PROCEDURES.

RATHER THAN PERMIT THE MALIN CASE TO BECOME A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE DECIDED TO REASSIGN MR. MALIN. WE HAVE EXPRESSED TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OUR UNHAPPINESS THAT WHAT WAS CLEARLY A MISUNDERSTANDING SHOULD HAVE DEVELOPED TO SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE EXTENT.

QUESTION: DOESN'T THIS AMOUNT TO MALIN'S BEING DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA?

ANSWER: NO. HAD THE U.S. REFUSED THE REQUEST FOR RECALL, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MALIN WOULD HAVE BEEN DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 22 apr 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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